

SENATE AND HAWAII

Subcommittee to Report on
Conditions in Islands.

EXTENT OF INQUIRY

TESTIMONY TAKEN ON MANY IM-
PORTANT SUBJECTS.Senators Mitchell, Burton and Foster
Will Present Their Work of the
Summer When Congress Meets.

Senator Mitchell, of Oregon, chairman of the subcommittee of the Senate committee on Pacific Islands and Porto Rico, which committee by resolution of the Senate at last session was authorized and directed to investigate the general conditions of the islands of Hawaii, and the administration of its affairs, has been in the city some days, busily engaged in arranging the testimony and preparing the report of the subcommittee. On request as to the particular direction which the inquiries of the committee took, and as to the probable character of the report to be made, Senator Mitchell said that while he had no objections to giving a general statement as to the subjects inquired into, he could not, until the subcommittee had submitted its report to the full committee and to the Senate, indicate anything as to the nature of the conclusions that might be reached on any one of the subjects investigated.

He states, however, in a general way that the committee, composed of Senators Burton of Kansas, Foster of Washington and himself—the other two members of the subcommittee, Senators Cockrell of Missouri and Blackburn of Kentucky, being unable to visit the islands—had visited five of the seven inhabited islands of the territory, viz., Oahu, Maui, Hawaii, Lanai and Molokai; also the cities of Honolulu, Hilo, Lahaina, Walluku, Mountain View and a number of other smaller towns and ports; that the committee had held all its sessions with open doors to press and public, and had taken the testimony of about 175 individual witnesses of all classes, some at all of these different places; that the committee had also heard representatives of various representative commercial bodies, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, planters' associations, builders and merchants' associations, boards of health, bankers, maritime boards, and representative bodies representing the native Hawaiians; and also on application heard the testimony of quite a number of federal and territorial officials, including that of Governor Dole, Secretary Cooper, Commissioner of Public Lands Boyd, members of the board of health, judges of the supreme and circuit courts and others; that the committee visited and carefully investigated the quarantine station near Honolulu, and the proposed sites for military posts and naval station at Honolulu; and also personally visited Honolulu and Pearl harbors on the island of Oahu, and Hilo harbor on the island of Hawaii; that testimony was taken on the condition and wants of each, with a view of determining as to the necessary improvements for these harbors.

Extent of the Investigation.

"The investigations extended," continued the senator, "to the financial, commercial and economic conditions generally of the islands; to the status, functions and operations of all federal and territorial officials, including the executive, administrative and judicial officers, as well those appointed by federal as by local authority; the committee also examined into the topographical, geographical and other conditions and value of the public lands, including those formerly known as the crown lands; the territorial land laws, the manner of disposition of the public lands—which is now under territorial control, the general government never having extended any of the land laws of the United States to that territory.

"Our committee carefully inquired into these conditions more particularly affected by the organic act, with a view of determining what if any amendments should be made to that act by Congress; also made diligent inquiry into the local laws now in force in the territory, and of the operations of the government thereunder, with a view of determining as to the republican and democratic character of each.

Public Land Problem.

"The committee also made investigations, with a view of enabling the committee and congress to reach correct conclusions as to whether any legislation is desirable and necessary in connection with the public lands of the territory, and as to whether their disposition should remain, under the direction of congress, in the local government, or be taken charge of exclusively by the general government.

"Investigations touching several official declarations by territorial officials were also made, some of which occurred before and a number after the arrival of the committee in the islands.

"A careful and thorough investigation of the management of the leper settlement on the island of Molokai was made, and the condition and mode of life of these unfortunate people, with a view of determining whether the control and management of this settlement should remain, as now, under the territorial government, or be transferred to the government of the United States and be placed under the marine hospital service.

"The labor question, the relations of labor to capital, wages, the question of restricted immigration of Chinese laborers, of the cost of producing sugar on the different plantations of the islands; also as to the adaptability of the islands for raising coffee and the feasibility of building up that industry in the islands and the condition of trade and commerce generally between the islands and the mainland were also taken into account by the committee.

"We carefully investigated the fire claims of the territory, amounting to considerable over \$1,000,000, arising out of the fires incident to the plague in December, 1896, and January, 1900, and looked carefully into the manner in which these claims had been investigated by the territorial officials, also into the conditions that led to the destruction of property at that time, the reasons for and the manner of such destruction, all bearing upon the question as to whether the United States should or should not assume the payment of these claims.

The Irrigation Question.

"A considerable amount of testimony was taken bearing upon the question of the proposed irrigation ditch in the Kohala district of the island of Hawaii and the conflicting claims of the Hawaiian Ditch Company and of another company represented by the Messrs. Gehrs and their associates. This testimony bore, first, upon the question as to the advisability and feasibility of this enterprise, and, secondly, as to the respective rights of the two claimants for a franchise.

"The investigations of the committee extended further as to the necessity for public buildings for custom houses, court houses and post offices in Honolulu and Hilo, also as to the necessity for the reclamation into United States lands, in the United States mint, of some \$800,000 of Hawaiian silver coins.

"Special attention was also given to the question as to the advisability of so amending the organic act as to require the organization of county, city and town governments. Much testimony was taken bearing upon this question.

"Claim of the Late Queen.

"The late queen, Liliuokalani (Mrs. Domina), having presented to the committee a claim for reasons alleged to have been sustained by her by reason of the loss of the crown lands when she was deposed, the committee made a full investigation as to the condition, character and value of these lands at the time of her deposition as queen, annually, and also, at the request of her attorneys, took the testimony of quite a number of witnesses subpoenaed on her behalf, which testimony bore upon the general proposition as to the advisability of such a public standpoint of the general government making some allowance to the ex-queen.

"The whole time of the committee," Mr.

YOU HAVE GOT
YOUR WORK TO DO

HERE IS THE LESSON OF TIME. TEN YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

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About that time appeared the figure of the Quaker—now familiar. His message was simply "Eat Less Meat."

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It is a matter of food.

The fact that Quaker Oats and the Greater Achievement came at the same time is not without its meaning.

We have mastered food questions—not merely cereals, but every food. We have told you in the last few days some of the many Quaker Differences which make Quaker Oats the best food.

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You have got your work to do.

If you breakfast on it you will work better, play better, sleep better.

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Mitchell stated, "with the exception of a few hours, was closely devoted to the investigations referred to, and the committee has a mass of testimony bearing upon the several subjects of inquiry. The committee was in the islands twenty-five days and visited personally ten of the sixty-one plantations on the different islands.

Report Nearly Ready.

"Owing to necessary delays in Senators Burton and Foster reaching this city, it is not probable that our report will be ready by the meeting of Congress, but we hope to have it ready to submit shortly afterward."

The report will not only set forth the conclusions of the committee, but it is understood, also will make recommendations for remedial legislation regarding some questions which have come under the attention of the committee. On these ques-

tions Senator Mitchell defers decision until the report has been made. He voiced the information, however, that the committee found great industrial depression and business inactivity in the islands, and when asked for its cause he replied:

"The claim is made on the part of those engaged in sugar production, and also those engaged in dependent industries, that the reason of the present industrial depression arises mainly from the low price of sugar and the high price of labor. This claim, however, is disputed by the representatives of other classes of industries which are not so dependent on the sugar industry for prosperity."

The reception and treatment of the committee in the islands was commented on most warmly by the senator, who said that in every place and at all times was the committee shown the greatest cordiality and respect. Its desires for information

HUNTINGTON ESTATE SUE.

Englishman Alleges Fraud in Building Central Pacific.

The New York World of today says: The estate of Collis P. Huntington is defendant in an action brought by English stockholders of the Central Pacific railroad to recover \$100,000,000 alleged to have been converted by the late railroad magnate.

As a preliminary to the suit the executors of the estate were served yesterday with notice to show cause before Surrogate Thomas, December 2, why they should not be compelled to give an inventory of the

estate left by the late Mr. Huntington. It was explained that this step was necessary in order to ascertain what property had been left by Mr. Huntington and to take measures to keep the estate intact.

The plaintiff in the case is Walter Morshead, a resident of England. Although he is the sole plaintiff at present, it was said that many others, all Englishmen, will profit by the suit should it be won.

Mr. Morshead, through his attorney, Robert L. Cutting, demands an accounting of the expenditures by Mr. Huntington and his associates of \$163,000,000 in the construction of the Central Pacific railroad. Mr. Morshead says only \$20,000,000 was used for the purpose named and that more than \$100,000,000 was appropriated by Mr. Huntington and others.

Although the present suit is against the Huntington estate, it was stated yesterday that it would be followed by other suits

against the estates of Leland Stanford, Charles Crocker and Mark Hopkins, who with Mr. Huntington, were known as the "Big Four" of the Southern Pacific.

The papers in the suit allege that, while officers and directors of the Central Pacific railroad, Mr. Huntington, Mr. Stanford, Mr. Crocker and Mr. Hopkins were interested in construction companies which built the road and that the contracts were let at exorbitant rates.

One of the specifications in the complaint charges fraud. It states that in pursuance of "fraudulent arrangements" \$30,000,000 in United States bonds and capital stock to the total value, inclusive of the bonds, of \$163,000,000 were expended in "pretended payments," whereas it actually cost but \$20,000,000 to construct the railroad. Another paragraph of the complaint says:

"And as this plaintiff is informed and be-

lieves that the said Huntington, from the beginning of said fraud and devices herein alleged and throughout their pendency, for the most part directed and managed these schemes and conspiracies to plunder the said Central Pacific Railroad Company, which schemes and conspiracies were consummated and resulted in the conversion set forth."

Virginia Postmasters Appointed.

The following Virginia fourth-class postmasters have been appointed: Crider, Robert Wilson; Moorman's River, Wm. L. Wood, Jr.; Rosette, Miss Rena Parks; Taylor's Store, Robert Lee Kent.

Lord Tennesson, the temporary governor general of Australia, has been formally appointed to that office. The appointment is for one year only.